

Candidate Statement
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I am honored and humbled to be a candidate for ECA First Vice President Elect-Select. Our organization is the oldest communication organization in the United States, and it has been led by many of the foremost individuals in our discipline. The legacy of scholarship, service, and teaching enacted by past Presidents is a history of excellence that our next First Vice President Elect-Select should aspire to continue. I hope that you will trust me to carry on this tradition of excellence in communication.

ECA has been my organizational home for 15 years, and it will always be. My first conference was the 1999 conference held in Charleston, WV, and I have been an active and engaged member ever since.

During these 15 years, I have had many opportunities to serve ECA. My first service to ECA was similar to many of your first service opportunities: I reviewed papers for Rhetoric and Public Address. I was impressed by the creativity and dynamism of our members' papers, and I wanted to continue to serve in roles that would allow our collective excellence to emerge. Since this first opportunity, I have chaired two of our interest groups (Health Communication and Rhetoric and Public Address), sat on the Executive Council (for a total of seven years), served on the Finance and Publications Committees, been a Short Course Coordinator, and served as a member of the Committee of Scholars. In each role, I have had the opportunity to learn from past and current Presidents and Executive Directors of our organization.

One thing that I have learned from our organization's leaders is that we should strive to be evangelists for ECA. I believe in encouraging my students to attend ECA and present their original research. I have sponsored undergraduates to participate in the James C. McCroskey & Virginia P. Richmond Undergraduate Scholars' Conference, and I have driven many 15-passenger vans to bring graduate and undergraduate students to our conferences. I believe that engaging emergent scholars in our organization as early as possible encourages a lifetime association with ECA and that our organization should continue to make ECA a place that feels like home to a undergraduate and graduate student members.

I have been active in the scholarship of ECA. I have presented 26 papers to ECA (including 7 on top paper panels), in 8 different interest groups. I believe that our discipline's diversity is strength. I have demonstrated that I support an inclusive and engaged discipline by swerving as chair, panel participant, or respondent across multiple interest groups. For these scholarly and service contributions, I was named a 2013 ECA Distinguished Research Fellow and received the 2012 ECA Past Presidents' Award.

My scholarly contributions to ECA also include my current service as the Editor of *Communication Quarterly*. As Editor, I have had the privilege to help emerging and established scholars continue to inform our discipline through research excellence. I have also served as a past editorial board member for *CQ* and currently serve as a member of the board of *Qualitative Research Reports in Communication*. ECA's journals are models for the communication discipline; they embrace an eclectic approach to communication scholarship that allow for multiple ways of knowing. I believe that it is essential that ECA continue to lead in demonstrating the fullness of the communication discipline.

As a result of these experiences, I have had the opportunity to understand what makes ECA a strong, engaged, and inclusive organization. But I also believe that we can build on our organizational and financial strengths to continue and expand ECA's legacy of excellence.

If elected, there are four specific areas area that I would like to strengthen.

First, I want to see an increased promotion of ECA and its members' teaching and research expertise to traditional media. As someone who regularly engages in dialogue with newspaper, radio, and television journalists on issues related to my scholarship, I believe that ECA's social media presence can be complemented by making our members more available to traditional media outlets. There are stories that appear on a cyclical cycle where our expertise would be valued but is not present: the annual stories about family stresses around the holidays rarely include interpersonal scholars; political debate coverage is more likely to include a political scientist than a political communication or argumentation scholar; and, when state education appropriation budgets are being discussed, our K-12, Community College, and Instructional Communication members should be part of the public dialogue. In addition to our history of using press releases to inform media outlets about top paper panels, ECA can, and should, package press releases on recurrent communication topics.

Second, I want to address issues of access and affordability. ECA's financial footing is very strong, and Don Stacks and I have been working with Danette Ifert Johnson to see how expenditures can be used to support ECA's mission. In addition to looking at expenditures, we must investigate whether we can adjust revenues to improve access to our organization. ECA offers three membership options because we recognize the need to lower financial barriers for students and retirees. With the growing number of contingent, term-appointed and adjunct faculty members who lack access to institutional professional development funds, it seems inequitable to charge them the same rate for membership and conference attendance as full time, tenure-track faculty members. I believe we need to explore creating a more affordable tier of membership for part-time faculty who wish to participate in ECA as part of their strategy for securing more stable academic appointments.

Third, I want to promote dialogue between ECA and the state communication associations in our region. The Maryland and Ohio Communication Associations have been active as organizational voices in working toward statewide standards for communication courses in general education. The New York State Communication Association has deployed innovative session structures to promote rapid dialogue around emerging teaching and research projects. These organizations, as well as the New Jersey and Pennsylvania Communication Associations, have been innovators in finding new ways to promote the discipline. By establishing a regular dialogue between ECA and the state associations, I believe that ECA can learn from these organizations to better serve our members in scholarship and advocacy.

Finally, I want to broaden conversations between 4-year colleges/universities and Community Colleges. Assessment, outcomes and state standards have been topics of conversation in our Community College Interest Group for several years; they have been leaders in this area. For whatever reason, however, our 4-year members have often not attended conference sessions sponsored by the Community College Interest Group where these issues are most fully discussed. With state legislatures calling for clearer articulation agreements and inter-institutional transfer of credit policies, we need to listen to our members who have long term engagement with these topics. ECA can serve as a forum where 4-year and Community Colleges can come together, both in a conceptual sense and by sponsoring a conference-wide plenary. Doing this will allow topics of effective advocacy, negotiation of articulation, and engagement with state legislatures – topics that should be of interest to all of our members – to have the broadest audience.

I am excited about the possibility of continuing to serve ECA. I want to give back as fully as I can to an organization that has given me so many opportunities. I would be honored to serve as the First Vice President Elect-Select, and I hope you will give me the opportunity to do so.